



**U.S. Customs and  
Border Protection**

AUG 25 2017

(b) (6)

State Historic Preservation Officer  
Texas Historical Commission  
1511 Colorado Street  
Austin, TX 78701

Dear (b) (6)

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is in the initial stages of planning for proposed levee wall along 28 miles of existing levee located in Hidalgo County, Texas within the U.S. Border Patrol's (b) (7)(E) stations area of responsibility (AOR) and 32 miles of bollard wall in Starr County, Texas within the U.S. Border Patrol's (b) (7)(E) AOR. In addition, CBP is in the planning stages of its second phase of gate installation to close 35 gaps in existing border fence in Hidalgo and Cameron counties. The 35 gates were funded in CBP's fiscal year (FY) 2017 appropriation, while the proposed 28 miles of levee wall and 32 miles of bollard wall are included in the President's FY18 budget request to Congress.

In Hidalgo County, CBP is proposing 28 miles of levee wall. The proposed levee wall alignment will be on the south face of the northern U.S. International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC) levee. The proposed design includes construction of a reinforced concrete levee wall to the height of the existing levee with 18-foot tall steel bollards installed on the top of the levee wall, a possible 150-foot enforcement zone on the south/river side of the levee wall, detection technology, enforcement zone lighting, video surveillance, automated vehicle gates, pedestrian gates, and an all-weather patrol road parallel to the levee wall. In addition, CBP will install gates within 20 gaps in existing border levee wall within Hidalgo County and in 15 existing gaps within Cameron County.

In Starr County, CBP is proposing 32 miles of bollard wall. The proposed design includes construction of 20 to 30-foot tall steel bollards, a possible 150-foot enforcement zone on the south/river side of the bollard wall, detection technology, enforcement zone lighting, video surveillance, and an all-weather patrol road parallel to the bollard wall.

Additional details of the possible components of the proposed action are as follows:

- **Levee Wall** -The levee wall will be a concrete wall to the height of the levee crest with 18 foot tall bollards installed in the top of the levee wall.
- **Bollard Wall** – The bollard wall will be 20 to 30 feet high utilizing (b) (7)(E) diameter (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E) steel bollards.
- **150 Foot Enforcement Zone** – The enforcement zone will be an area extending from the south/river side of the levee wall or bollard wall approximately 150 feet. All vegetation within the 150-foot enforcement zone will be cleared.
- **Gates** - Automated vehicle gates will be installed with a minimum height of 18 feet and minimum width of 20 feet. In addition, gates designed to allow for farming equipment will be installed where appropriate and range in width from 40 to 50 feet. All gates will be (b) (7)(E) (b) (7)(E)

- **Lighting** - LED lighting will be installed as part of this project. CBP will work with the appropriate stakeholders to develop solutions to avoid excess lighting beyond the enforcement zone.
- **All Weather Road** - An all-weather aggregate patrol road (type FC-2) will be constructed on the south side and parallel to the levee or bollard wall and within the 150-foot enforcement zone. The specific location of the road within the enforcement zone will be determined during the design phase of the project.
- **Cameras** - A camera surveillance system will be installed to ensure visibility of the enforcement zone and southern approach.

The purpose of the proposed action is to increase CBP's ability to impede or deny illegal border crossings, and to provide improved surveillance and detection capabilities to the areas of greatest risk of illegal cross-border activity located within the US. Border Patrol Rio Grande Valley Sector. The proposed action will be similar to other levee and border wall systems located within the Rio Grande Valley Sector. The proposed action will also support CBP's action under Executive Order (EO) 13767, where CBP is directed to "...secure the southern border of the United States through the immediate construction of a physical wall on the southern border, monitored and supported by adequate personnel so as to prevent illegal immigration, drug and human trafficking, and acts of terrorism."

CBP will evaluate the potential environmental impacts associated with the proposed action. CBP is gathering data and input from state and local government agencies, federal agencies, and Native American Tribes that may be affected by or otherwise have an interest in the proposed actions. Since your agency or organization may have particular knowledge and expertise regarding the potential environmental impacts from CBP's proposed action, your input is sought regarding the likely or anticipated effects to biological, cultural, and natural resources from the implementation of the proposed actions. Your response should include any state and local restrictions, permitting or other requirements with which CBP should consider during project siting, construction, and operation.

This letter is intended to provide initial information for CBP's proposed projects in the Rio Grande Valley and seek comments and concerns from potentially affected parties and interested groups. CBP intends similar outreach in other border regions as projects are identified and defined. Your prompt attention to this request is appreciated. Comments and information will be accepted up to 30 days following the date of this letter. If you have any questions or comments please contact me at [commentsebv@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:commentsebv@cbp.dhs.gov). Please include "RGV Wall and Gates Construction" in the title of your email. Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

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Real Estate and Environmental Branch Chief  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Border Patrol & Air and Marine  
Program Management Office